

spending for education over the next 7 years, you will find that we proposed an increase over those 7 years of \$24 billion in additional education spending.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is not just how much money that we throw at these problems, because we have increased the expenditures in almost every educational field over the past decade by tremendous sums of money. Then we get these headlines on our magazines, *Dumb and Dumber*. We find the results, the SAT scores have dropped, total average of, from 1972, a score of 937 to 902 in 1994. We find our 17-year-olds scored 17 points worse in science than in 1970. We find reading also at proficient levels, the scores have fallen since 1992. In math, U.S. students scored worse in math than all other large countries except for Spain. Thirty percent of college freshmen must take remedial education courses. This is nationwide. And my community college, the president of our local community college said it is up to 70 percent of his entering freshmen need remedial education. So we must look at how we are spending these tremendous sums of dollars and the amounts.

That is part of what this debate is about here, whether it is education or whether it is environment.

Let me give you two more examples. Here is an article, I brought this to the House before but it is absolutely astounding. It talks about job training programs and education programs, job education programs in the state of Florida.

This is just out in the last month, a State study. Florida, in Florida, State, local and Federal expenditures for these training programs were \$1 billion. Listen to this: Most students who entered the program never graduated. In all, 37 percent of 347 training and vocational programs performed poorly according to this report and only 20 percent of those enrolled in high school vocational programs completed that. The report found, and listen to this, of that figure only 19 percent found a full-time job after graduating and then were employed in just above a minimum wage, at a minimum wage level and out of that position in less than six months.

The examples go on and on. Here is another story that was in the *Washington Post*. Department of Labor spent about \$305,000 for each participant in a job program in Puerto Rico. The problem is, we are paying more and we are getting less. Part of it deals with the Department of Education, which now has 4,786 employees, of which 3,322 are in Washington, D.C., just a few blocks from here.

So part of this argument is paying more, getting less. Part of it is command and control in Washington. Part of it is giving these 3,322 bureaucrats down the street in the Federal Department of Education something to do. They do that. It is time that we brought that to a halt.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay a special tribute and certainly with a great deal of remorse to the victims of crime throughout America. We honor this week Victims Rights Week, and we pay tribute to all of the men and women and children in this country whose lives have been cut short by hideous acts of violence.

In particular, I must cite several heinous crimes in my community: the vicious murders of Jennifer Ertman, Elizabeth Pena and Monique Miller of Houston, TX. Jennifer Ertman, 14, and Elizabeth Pena, 16, left a party and were taking a shortcut home near a park on June 24, 1993, when they crossed paths with 6 youths engaged in a drunken gang initiation rite. The two girls were repeatedly raped before being strangled and stomped to death by a mob.

Monique Miller was murdered and sexually abused by a repeat offender.

These teenagers and this very young child will never live out their dreams and live up to the great potential that each of them possessed. Their families will never see them achieve all that they should have. They will never attend a school dance again, go to college, get married or have their own families. Their dreams and the dreams that their parents had for them have been destroyed by senseless violence.

There is growing recognition in this country that most sex offense victims are children and that reporting of these offenses is still low. The FBI law enforcement bulletin reported that only 1 to 10 percent of child molestation cases are ever reported to police, and a National Victim Center survey estimated that 61 percent of rape victims are less than 18 years of age; 29 percent are less than 11 years of age.

A recent United States Department of Justice study of 11 jurisdictions and the District of Columbia reported that 10,000 women under the age of 18 were raped in 1992 in these jurisdictions. At least 3,800 were children under the age of 12.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the FBI, children under the age of 18 accounted for 11 percent of all murder victims in the United States in 1994. Between 1976 and 1994, an estimated 37,000 children were murdered. And half of all murders in 1994 were committed with a handgun; about 7 in 10 victims age 15 to 17 were killed with a handgun.

Clearly, we must do more to protect our children from violence. This requires more than jailing sex offenders and violent criminals after they commit crimes, although swift and effective punishment is important. This requires strong prevention and education which will keep our children from becoming victims of violent crime.

Tomorrow the House Committee on the Judiciary, of which I am a member, will mark up H.R. 2137, also known as Megan's Law, in honor of 7-year old Megan Kanka who was raped, strangled and murdered by a twice-convicted pedophile who lived across the street from her. I will be a cosponsor of this legislation.

This bill would amend the 1994 crime bill to require States to release relevant information regarding persons convicted of molesting or kidnapping children and certain other sex crimes, when it is necessary to protect the public. This bill would guarantee the appropriate dissemination of information so that parents, school officials and community groups can responsibly use the information in order to protect their children.

Today I pay tribute to these teenagers, Jennifer and Elizabeth and children like Monique and Megan, and I ask during Victims Rights Week we take time to recognize the victims of violent crime and work together to prevent senseless violence in our communities. Let us stand up against the repeal of the assault weapons ban. Let us recognize that the Brady bill must be reinforced to prevent reckless utilization of handguns. Let us understand that we must stop the siege of our children by pedophiles who recklessly go from State to State and perpetrate their violent acts on our innocent children.

Let us bring back innocence to America again so that men and women and children can be safe in their homes. Let us stand up for the victims of America.

We owe it to Jennifer, Elizabeth, Monique and Megan and all of the others whose lives have been snuffed out as a result of violent crimes. We owe it to the victims of Oklahoma City, and we owe it to ourselves. We owe it to America. Let us stand up against crime and let us stand for victims.

THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues some words that come from a 67-year-old woman who works at the minimum wage in Santa Ana, CA:

Dear Congressman—she wrote me recently—I strongly advise you not to raise the minimum wage. In my working career, I have had a lot of under, slightly over and straight minimum wage jobs. As a single parent, I managed to raise my son without any handout from the government. Although raising the minimum wage may sound like a great humanitarian idea, it really isn't.

In the past every time minimum wages were raised, the entire national work force, plus welfare recipients, also demanded and received raises. The cost of goods and services rose to meet the higher cost of labor, and you forced me to work a lot of overtime to maintain the same buying power I had before my "generous" raise.